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thirty parts, illustrated with wood-cuts, maps, etc., and published in Vienna.——Capt. J. E. Sandeman, of the British Indian Survey, has recently sent out a trained native explorer to endeavor to ascertain the source of the Irrawaddy river. He went up the stream in boats to Kacho, lat. 25° 20′, at an elevation of about 1000 feet above the sea. Thence by land he continued on to Mogungpoon Maingkung, lat. 26° 8′, at which place the exploration terminated. The eastern and western branches meet at Ponk-san-poon; the western branch is the largest and is said to rise in the Kanti country. There seems to be no doubt that there is no longer any reason to suppose the Irrawaddy is connected with the Sanpu river of Tibet.——The *Academy* says there are several expeditions preparing to visit the Obi and Yenisei gulfs this season. M. Siberiakoff is fitting out sledges to take supplies to two of his vessels which have been frozen up in the Gulf of Obi during the winter. The steamer *Nordenskiöld* will sail for the mouth of the Yenisei from Gothenberg. A hydrographic expedition is also being formed in Russia to visit the Sea of Kara and Gulf of Obi.

MICROSCOPY.[1]

THE BLOOD IN HIBERNATION.—In the autumn of 1879, Professor V. Wittich, received twelve living German moles *(Mus montanus)*, in order to investigate the amount of glycogen in the liver during their winter sleep. One animal was killed accidentally immediately after its arrival, and the results obtained on a microscopical examination of the blood, led to an examination of the blood of the other animals, all killed in perfect health, and in all the same appearances were found. One of the animals had died on the journey without signs of disease, although perhaps in consequence of a bite from another animal.

The blood taken from a vein in the peritoneal cavity contained a large number of thread-like moving objects, which moved the blood corpuscles lying near them, and, after diluting the blood with a-half per cent. solution of chloride of sodium, presented an appearance identical with that of the spermatozoa of the frog. These organisms appear to be the same as those described by T. R. Lewis as existing in the blood of healthy rats. They are much larger than the spirilla met with in the blood of relapsing fever. They were found in the blood from various parts, arterial and venous, in every animal. They disappear from the blood as soon as decomposition sets in and the putrefaction-bacteria appear. They were very numerous, ten or twelve being found in every drop of blood, and they furnish a new proof of how large a number of parasitic organisms may exist in the blood without causing any disturbance to the general health. Attempts were made to inoculate guinea-pigs, but in every instance with a negative result.—*London Lancet.*

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[1] This department is edited by Dr. R. H. Ward, Troy, N. Y.

MOUNTING STARCHES.—A correspondent of *Science Gossip* advises to mount starch by dredging it through muslin into balsam melted in a test tube over a spirit-lamp. After the air bubbles which will appear have been caused to burst, a little of the balsam is transferred to a slide and covered with a warmed cover-glass, when the starch it contained is found to be evenly distributed, free from air bubbles, and in suitable condition to be viewed by polarized light. Very soft balsam, which requires but little heat, should be used in this procedure, lest the starch grains should be altered by the heat.

NEW MICROSCOPICAL JOURNAL.—The microscope, and its relations to medicine and pharmacy, is the title of the new journal whose publication has been commenced at Ann Arbor, by Professor Charles H. Stowell of the University of Michigan. It is a bi-monthly of thirty-two pages, primarily of a microscopical character, but introducing a considerable medley of medical and pharmaceutical notes. Though very elementary in its character, and designed essentially for beginners, it is sensible and scientific in its tone, and will therefore be of interest to all. The pharmacy department is under the charge of Mrs. Louisa R. Stowell, whose real ability and previous good work in this direction give assurance that her department will be an important as well as prominent feature of the enterprise.

RECENT PAMPHLETS.—Les apparences microscopiques des Valves des Diatomees, par Julian Derby, C. E. Bruxelles, Belgium.

Etudes sur des Coupes de Diatomees (Jutland), par W. Prinz. Bruxelles, Belgium.

On some Impurities of Drinking-water. By Professor W. G. Farlow, Boston.

The condition of the Brain in Insanity. By Theodore Deecke, Utica, New York.

Pseudo Polypi of the Colon. By Surgeon J. J. Woodward, U. S. A., Washington.

SOCIETY NOTES.—The American Society of Microscopists will hold its fourth annual meeting at Columbus, Ohio, commencing on the 9th of August, under the presidency of J. D. Hyatt, of New York. A full and interesting meeting is expected. The local arrangements for reception and entertainment under the auspices of the Tyndall Association of Columbus, will doubtless be of the most satisfactory character.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science, meets at Cincinnati on Wednesday of the following week, August 17th, the subsection of microscopy being under the chairmanship of Rev. A. B. Hervey of Taunton, Massachusetts. During the week of the meetings, the Department of Science and Art of the Ohio Mechanics' Institute, will open a loan exhibition of scientific apparatus, including microscopes, and other optical instruments. It is believed that this exhibition of apparatus and objects illustrating natural history in its various branches and applications, will add greatly to the interest of the meetings. Among the prizes offered are the following: Gold medal for the best display of microscopes and accessories; silver medals for the best display of optical apparatus, of magic lantern and apparatus for projection, and of microscope slides in set of not less than fifty slides; and honorable mention for the best microscope stand, best object glass, and best polarizing apparatus.

The Rochester Microscopical Society, after an existence of two years, during which time it became the largest organization of the kind in this country, has drawn around it sections in other departments of science, and has thus given origin to a new society of wider scope, the Rochester Academy of Science, of which it will hereafter be a section. The recent annual reception of the new academy was one of the largest and best of such entertainments that have been given in the country.

The ninth annual reception of the San Francisco Microscopical Society was distinguished by the scientific value of the objects selected for exhibition, and by the large and appreciative assemblage of guests. The concourse of friends was said to be the largest that has ever attended a reception of the society.

The exhibition of the Wellesley College Microscopical Society, was remarkable for the thorough scientific character and direct educational value of the exhibits. The microscopical work at this institution is evidently well planned and well executed.

The thirteenth annual field-meeting of the Troy Scientific Association, held at Trenton Falls, N. Y., was one of the most successful out-of-town meetings ever held by this society. A large and distinguished party of members and friends enjoyed the rare social advantages and scientific opportunities of the trip.

The Oneida County Microscopical Society has been organized, under the presidency of Professor A. H. Chester. It meets at Utica, N. Y.

The American Postal Microscopical Club has just completed the first year's work since reorganization. Postal troubles are no longer experienced, and with rare exceptions the working of the circuits has been satisfactory. The boxes have been called in for the summer, but will be started again in September or October.

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SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

— A remarkable cave has been discovered in the Santa Rita mountains, Arizona. For several years the existence of a curious cave near Graterville has been known to the miners of the vicinity, but the difficulty of thorough exploration has deterred many from visiting it, and half of its wonderful extent is as yet unknown. From P. J. Coyne, a well-known and reliable prospector, who is in the city, in company with Mr. Johnson, a *Citizen* reporter, were gathered some interesting facts, the result of a partial exploration.